**Summary**

*Ethical Choices*, Third Edition

Richard Burnor and Yvonne Raley

Part I Introduction: Theory and Practice

The Introduction to Part I introduces ethics and the moral by drawing attention to what we take for granted: morals regulate and guide human behavior thereby making society and life possible. This is contrasted with Hobbes’s depiction of the state of war. The authors present the importance of morality as such: (a) it distinguishes what is from what ought to be; (b) it helps in developing self-identity; (c) living morally may be necessary for happiness. Then, they propose that ethics be treated as the study of morality, like science studies nature. That is, they encourage students to understand ethics to be a systematic discipline about moral phenomena. This treatment helps us all avoid some of the confusion arising from ordinary language and the way it interchanges “morals” and “moral” with “ethics” and “ethical.” In turn, we can describe ethical theories as intended to identify, explain, understand the moral.